

Remarks

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 5 and 9 to more clearly and particularly point out that the paddle is part of the first end of blade, made minor modifications to dependent claims 3-5, 7-8, 11,13, and 14, and cancelled dependent claim 2. In light of these amendments and the reasons provided below, Applicant believes the amended claims are distinguishable over the prior art.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by US Patent Publication 2002/0004417[(now US Patent 6,478,674 to Redekop] (hereinafter "Redekop"). The Examiner states that Redekop discloses a paddle adjacent to the first end.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1-14 as amended as being clearly distinguishable from and patentable over the cited Redekop reference as explained below.

The disclosure of the Redekop application cited by the examiner does not teach or suggest the blade structure of the present invention as now defined in claims 1-14, and specifically in claims 1, 5 and 9. There is no teaching or suggestion in Redekop that the paddle extends at an angle from the leading edge of the first end of the blade [the mounting end] as in the current application. Rather, Redekop discloses a different blade construction. In Claim 1 of Redekop, it is clearly stated that the blade member has a mounting portion that is substantially flat or planar, that the strip of metal is twisted only within the intermediate portion of the blade member, and that the outer or blade portion of the blade member has a trailing edge in a plane extending at a radial angle to the cutting edge in a different plane. The straw chopper blade claimed in the present invention is in contrast to the blade disclosed in Redekop. In the blade of the present invention, as shown in Figures 3-7, both the leading and trailing edges of the outer end of the blade are in substantially the same plane as the blade body. Neither edge is in a radial plane offset axially from the blade, as disclosed and claimed in Redekop (see, e.g. Claim 1). Additionally, in the present invention, the paddle portion 86 is on the leading edge 72 at the first end 76 of the blade, and extends at an angle thereto. Thus, in contrast with the invention of Redekop having 3 sections, a flat mounting section, a twisting middle section and an outer section with a cutting edge and a an angled trailing edge, the blade of the

present invention, has an angled portion at the first, or mounting end, and the second or cutting end is substantially planar. Thus, independent claims 1, 5, and 9 are not anticipated by Redekop, and are patentable over Redekop. The remaining claims depend from these independent claims, and thus are also allowable.

It is therefore believed that the rejection of all the claims under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Redekop should be withdrawn and that this application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

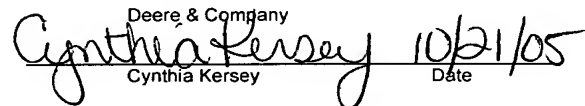
Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present communication may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully,


Attorney for Applicant(s)

Dawn C. Wolff
Reg. No. 48,695
Patent Department
Deere & Company
One John Deere Place
Moline, IL 61265
Telephone No. (309) 765-4325

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
on: October 21, 2005
Date

Deere & Company

Cynthia Kersey Date 10/21/05